



Keven McDermott

05/15/2003 09:50 AM

To: Tom Simons/DC/USEPA/US@EPA
 cc: Janis Hastings/R10/USEPA/US@EPA, Jon
 Schweiss/R10/USEPA/US@EPA, Montel
 Livingston/R10/USEPA/US@EPA, Jed Januch/R10/USEPA/US@EPA
 Subject: Regional / OAR research

Hi Tom,

The R10 Office of Environmental Assessment (OEA) is currently involved with several asbestos activities, which I've listed below. Please let me know if you would like additional details.

Keven

In support of the R10 Super Fund program, Jed Januch and other OEA staff are finalizing a study which is part of a site investigation of the former W.R. Grace vermiculite processing plant in Spokane, WA. The plant ceased production in the early 1970s, but concerns persisted about asbestos contamination in the soil. We took bulk samples on the site and at adjacent residences. Findings of asbestos contamination, sometimes in excess of 1%, prompted us to conduct air monitoring while simulating household activities in a confined space and on site. TEM analysis revealed the presence of actinolite, tremolite, winchite, richterite, amosite and chrysotile in the soil. Disturbance of the soil released asbestos fibers into the air establishing the existence of a soil to air pathway. The report of our study is currently in draft form and is being reviewed by EPA staff outside of Region 10. We plan to have the revised draft peer reviewed outside of EPA. within the next few months.

OEA staff are providing technical assistance to the R10 Super Fund program at a site in Klamath Falls, OR. The site, Northridge Estates, is an upscale housing development built on a former military installation. Large quantities of asbestos building materials were disposed of on the property, contaminating the soil. Residents are very concerned about potential exposure to asbestos.

OEA staff continue to provide information on issues related to asbestos in vermiculite. Staff respond to calls from the public and regulatory agencies on a weekly basis. The majority of calls now deal with vermiculite attic insulation.

----- Forwarded by Keven McDermott/R10/USEPA/US on 05/15/2003 08:58 AM -----



Montel Livingston

05/15/2003 08:25 AM

To: Keven McDermott/R10/USEPA/US@EPA, Jon
 Schweiss/R10/USEPA/US@EPA
 cc:
 Subject: Regional / OAR research

----- Forwarded by Montel Livingston/R10/USEPA/US on 05/15/2003 08:25 AM -----



Tom Simons

05/15/2003 07:25 AM

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